REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12 were presented and examined. In this Response, Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claim 2 was previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-12 remain in the application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,006,514 issued to Oki, et al. ("Oki," previously cited).

Applicants amend independent Claims 1 and 8 to more clearly point out "wherein each VOQ having at least one awaiting cell sends, in every time slot, the request signal for outputting a cell to the one sub-scheduling means that begins the contention process in that time slot." Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 13, line 19 to page 14, line 16 of the specification.

Oki does not disclose these features. Rather, Oki discloses sending a request signal to the k sub-scheduler, where k = t mod K, t being the current time slot and K being the total number of sub-schedulers (col. 5, lines 39-50). Thus, Oki does not send a request signal to the sub-scheduler that begins a contention process in the current time slot. Rather, the request signal is sent to a sub-scheduler in a round-robin fashion, which is determined by (t mod K).

Further, Oki does not disclose that a request signal is sent, in every time slot, by each VOQ that has at least one awaiting cell. As recognized by the Examiner, Oki discloses the use of request counters to keep track of outstanding requests. When the request counter is decremented to zero, no request signal will be sent from the associated VOQ (col. 5, lines 44-50). Oki discloses that the request counter is decremented before the HOL cell in the associated VOQ is output (col. 5, line 62-col. 6, line 3). Thus, a VOQ of Oki can have a HOL cell waiting to be output and, at the same time slot, a zero request counter value. Oki does not disclose "each VOQ having at least one awaiting cell sends, in every time slot, the request signal for outputting a cell." Rather, a VOQ of Oki that has an awaiting cell (the HOL cell) and a zero request counter value would not send a request signal.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Oki does not teach each of the elements of amended Claims 1 and 8, as well as their respective dependent claims, namely, Claims 3-7 and 9-12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-12 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.
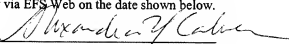
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 16, 2008

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS-Web on the date shown below.

Alexandra Y. Caluen   December 16, 2008